

CLAIMS

1. A PVA-containing composition, comprising a blend of PVA and an amount of lubricant effective to render the blend extrudable.
- 5 2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the lubricant comprises a fatty acid amide.
3. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the fatty acid amide is a straight or
10 branched C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid amide.
4. A composition according to Claim 2 or 3 wherein the composition further comprises a plasticiser.
- 15 5. A composition according to Claim 4 wherein the plasticiser is selected from ethylene glycol, glycerine, glycerol, triethylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycols and C₂-C₈ amides.
- 20 6. A composition according to any of Claims 1 to 5 comprising up to 5% lubricant, by weight.
7. A composition according to any of Claims 1 to 6 comprising up to 20% plasticiser, by weight.
- 25 8. A composition according to any of Claims 1 to 7, in the form of a tablet or pellet obtainable by cold-pressing
9. A filled PVA-containing composition, comprising a blend of PVA plus filler.
- 30 10. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the filler comprises inert, inorganic material.

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11. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the filler comprises a superabsorbent material.
12. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the filler comprises both an inert,
5 inorganic material and superabsorbent material.
13. A composition according to Claim 9, 10 or 12 wherein the inorganic filler comprises calcium carbonate.
- 10 14. A composition according to any of Claims 9-13 further comprising a lubricant.
- 15 15. A composition according to Claim 14 wherein the lubricant comprises a fatty acid amide.
- 15 16. A composition according to any of Claims 14 to 15 comprising, by weight, up to 50% filler, up to 5% lubricant and up to 20% of a plasticizer.
17. A composition according to any of Claims 14 to 16 comprising, by weight, 5-50% filler, 0.5 to 2.5% lubricant, 5 to 15% plasticizer and 40-80% PVA.
- 20 18. A composition according to any of Claim 1-17, further comprising an additional lubricant component to reduce adhesion of the composition to surfaces.
19. A composition according to Claim 18 wherein the lubricant comprises a stearate.
- 25 20. A composition according to any of Claims 9 to 19 in the form of a tablet or pellet obtainable by cold-pressing.
21. A PVA-containing composition comprising, by weight:-
30 40 to 80% PVA;
5 to 50% filler;

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5 to 15% plasticizer; and

22. A composition according to Claim 21, comprising, by weight:-
40 to 70% PVA;
20 to 50% filler;
8 to 15% plasticizer;
0.5 to 2.5% lubricant. internal lubricant; and
0.0001 to 0.1% external lubricant.
23. A composition according to Claim 22 comprising, by weight:-
50 to 60% PVA;
30 to 40% stearate-coated calcium carbonate;
8 to 15% glycerol;
0.5 to 1.5% octadecanamide; and
0.0001 to 0.1% zinc stearate.
24. A method of making a PVA-containing composition comprising blending PVA with a lubricant, said lubricant including a fatty acid amide.
25. A method according to Claim 24 comprising blending PVA with a fatty acid amide in the presence of an amount of moisture sufficient to bind the composition into tablets or pellets upon cold pressing.
26. A method according to Claim 24 and 25 comprising blending, in a high speed blender, PVA with up to 5% by weight of lubricant.
27. A method according to any of Claims 24 to 26 comprising adding moisture to the components to be blended, such as by dripping water into the blend.
28. A method according to any of Claims 24 to 27 wherein PVA and lubricant are fed into a high speed mixer gravimetrically.

29. A method of making a PVA-containing composition comprising blending PVA and a filler, wherein the filler comprises a superabsorbent material.

30. A method according to Claim 29 comprising blending PVA and a superabsorbent material in the presence of sufficient moisture to bind the composition into tablets or pellets upon cold pressing.

31. A method of extruding a PVA-containing composition so as to form an extruded product which contains PVA, comprising:-

blending PVA with at least one optional component selected from a lubricant and a filler;

cold pressing the resultant blend into pellets or tablets;

wherein the pellets or tablets comprise the polymer feedstock for extrusion of an extruded product containing PVA.

32. A method according to Claim 31 comprising blending PVA with one or more optional components in the presence of sufficient moisture to bind the blend upon cold pressing.

33. A method of extruding a PVA-containing composition comprising blending PVA and at least one optional component selected from a lubricant and a filler to form a feedstock for an extrusion process, the feedstock being in the form suitably of powder, pellets or tablets, and extruding the feedstock into a product, wherein the feedstock is prepared substantially without melting of the PVA.

34. A method of extruding a polymer composition containing a heat sensitive polymer, comprising blending the heat sensitive polymer with one or more optional components selected from a filler and a lubricant to form a feedstock for an extrusion process, the

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